

FISSAC 2nd Living Lab report – Czech Republic

On September 20, 2018, the second Living Lab took place in Circular hub in Prague, Czech Republic. FENIX in cooperation with the Institute of Circular Economy organized a conference during which Living Lab members met to discuss topics related to the possibility of IS Platform use in the Czech Republic.



The outcomes of the first Living Lab meeting can be summarized as a general need to push the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Industry and Trade to create an action plan which would address the issue of the use of secondary materials (details available in Living Lab report no.1).

The second Living Lab was dedicated to the IS Platform and it was named: *Secondary material platform as a basis of circular economy application both in Czech and European framework*. The event initiated with a short introduction of statistics and current situation of the waste management in the Czech Republic by innovation designer Cyril Klepek from Direct People. A presentation of the IS platform, developed under the FISSAC project, continued. Gabriela Urbanova (FENIX TNT) gave a presentation summarizing the main idea of “industrial symbiosis” with an example of eco-parks, the goals of the platform, target audience, functions of the platform, as well as the advantages of the platform. The process of trading was practically shown and explained. After the platform presentation, Karel Frink, representative from the construction company SKANSKA, shared his view on the use of secondary material in construction activities. He presented a construction project which took advantage of the secondary material use and generally welcomed the idea of industrial symbiosis in



the Czech Republic. He also expressed intentions to join the platform once it is available. The last section of the Living Lab was devoted to discussions with relevant stakeholders. The discussion revolved around three main questions:

1. What would motivate stakeholders to use the platform?
2. What they see as a barrier to use the platform?
3. What materials are the most suitable for such platform in the Czech Republic?

The following points summarize the outcomes of the discussions:

- The stakeholders were interested to know whether the platform use will be for free or whether they are expected to pay. It was mentioned that the owners of the platform did not make a final decision on whether or not the users will pay some fee yet; however, that the operation of the platform requires employment of several experts and that some fee might be foreseen – exact amount was not specified.
- The main barrier to successful introduction of the industrial symbiosis platform is the Czech legislation. The law states that waste cannot be sold or donated, only if it is treated and becomes secondary product. All non-treated by-products are considered waste, which can be used by a company that produced it, however, it cannot be used by another party. In order to fully exploit IS platform in Czech Republic, a change in legislation must be done. Such change will take a lot of time and efforts. Similar initiatives (commodity market) failed in past due to the legislation barrier.
- The change in legislation could happen faster, if actors would align and together lobby for the change.
- International platform should take into consideration that each country has specific regulations, which might differ from one country to another. Stakeholders prefer regional cooperation (also due to language barrier and different laws). If the platform is international, it would require inclusion of arbitration court (judge) in case there is an international dispute (e.g. quality of material is low, one party does not pay, etc.).
- There is already a platform used for trading of the recycled concrete: www.betonserver.cz
- The lack of awareness about the benefits of using recycled materials is another barrier. Appropriate communication and promotion campaigns should be created and performed.
- What would motivate stakeholders to join might be inclusion of best practices and real-life cases of how the industrial symbiosis helped companies in the platform.



- Czech construction companies generally do not use recycled materials; the change could occur if the public procurement (but also private projects) would state that the requirements are to use recycled materials.
- The prospect idea to add “label or brand” to the material traded within the platform was welcomed by the audience.

